

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CPR-01 DHA-02
L-03 H-01 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00
PRS-01 USIA-06 /057 W
-----124418 121803Z /46

R 121216Z AUG 77
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5080
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 2116

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV BQG AKB
SUBJ: CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRISONMENT

SUMMARY: STORY ON HESS APPEARED IN AUGUST 11 STERN
MAGAZINE WITH TELEPHOTO PICTURES OF HESS IN GARDEN.
STORY ALLEGED ONLY WESTERN TV BROADCAST WERE CENSORED;
IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRY, WE SET RECORD STRAIGHT.
DURING USCIB'S AMERICAN MONTH INSPECTION VISIT TO HESS ON
AUG 11, LATTER COMPLAINED ABOUT PRESS AND TV CENSORSHIP.
WESTERN GOVERNORS HAVE AGREED TO SEEK REMOVAL OF TV
CENSORSHIP AT FIRST FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY. THEY NOTE,
HOWEVER, THAT GETTING SOVIETS TO AGREE TO TV, ADDITIONAL
HOURS IN GARDEN, AN EXTRA VISIT EACH MONTH WAS MAJOR
ACCOMPLISHMENT WHICH THEY PREFERRED TO SEE DIGESTED
BEFORE THEY ASKED SOVIETS FOR NEW IMPROVEMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DER STERN AUGUST 11 CARRIES SHORT PIECE REPORTING
IMPROVEMENTS IN CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRISONMENT.
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STORY CLAIMS HOWEVER THAT WHILE HESS CAN SEE ANY EAST
GERMAN TELEVISION PROGRAM, WESTERN PROGRAMS ARE
CENSORED. SPRINGER PRESS QUERIED US ON THIS POINT
AUGUST 10. WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH CLEARANCES WE
TOLD SPRINGER THAT INFORMATION WAS INCORRECT, AND THAT ALL
TV PROGRAMS VISIBLE IN THE BERLIN AREA ARE SUBJECT
TO CENSORSHIP. (INCIDENTIALLY, PICTURES OF HESS IN

GARDEN WERE CLEARLY TAKEN BY TELEPHONE LENS).

2. USCOB, ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING POLAD, MADE MONTHLY INSPECTION DURING AMERICAN MONTH ON AUGUST 11. IN PRESENCE OF ALL GOVERNORS, HESS SAID HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY HE WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE ANY NEWS BROADCASTS AT ALL ON TV. HE SHOWED USCOB A MUCH-CENSORED COPY OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINER ZEITUNG THAT HE AS READING. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT HIS PROBLEMS WERE CREATED SOLELY BY THE SOVIETS. HE ALSO ASKED RHETORICALLY WHAT HE COULD DO EVEN IF HE WERE ABLE TO READ THE ENTIRELY OF THE FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINER ZEITUNG.

3. AFTER DECISION WAS TAKEN TO PERMIT HESS TO WATCH TV, GOVERNORS AGREED THAT BRITISH, WHO HAVE ALWAYS ACTED AS ALLIED CENSORS, AND SOVIETS WOULD DECIDE WHICH TV PROGRAMS HE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT SEE. IN PRACTICE, THE SOVIET AND BRITISH CENSORS TAKE THE GERMAN TV WEEKLY WHICH CONTAINS SYNOPSES OF ALL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN BERLIN. AFTER A VERY FEW PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN DELETED, HESS IS THEN GIVEN A TYPED LIST OF PROGRAMS FROM WHICH HE CAN CHOOSE. NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE THUS FAR BEEN FORBIDDEN AT SOVIET REQUEST. THE CHIEF WARDEN, WHOSE NATIONALITY IS DETERMINED BY THE DAILY DUTY ROSTER WHICH HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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THREE OF FOUR ON DUTY FOR EIGHT HOURS EACH DAY, IS ALWAYS PRESENT IN HESS'S CELL WHEN HE WATCHES TELEVISION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 2116

4. WE FIND IT INCOMPREHENSIBLE THAT HESS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SEE ANY NEWS BROADCASTS, PARTICULARLY SINCE A CHIEF WARDEN IS THERE TO TURN THE SET OFF ON THE VERY UNLIKELY CHANCE THAT THE NEWS MAY CONTAIN SOME ITEM ABOUT THE NAZI PERIOD, WAR CRIMINALS, THE STATE OF DEMARCHES ON HESS' BEHALF OR SUCH ITEMS WHICH IT IS DEEMED HE SHOULD NOT SEE. ACCORDINGLY, THE THREE WESTERN GOVERNORS INTEND TO PUSH FOR AN END OF CENSORSHIP AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY. THEIR INITIAL FEELING WAS THAT IT WAS BETTER TO DIGEST CURRENT IMPROVEMENTS: I.E. TV, EXTRA TIME IN GARDEN, AND TWO VISITS A MONTH, BEFORE PUSHING SOVIETS FOR MORE. SUBSEQUENTLY, A PROBLEM STILL NOT SOLVED AROSE IN RESPECT TO A TURKISH EMPLOYEE WHOM THE SOVIETS WANT DISMISSED, BUT WITHOUT PROVIDING SOLID EVIDENCE ON WRONG-DOING. AS SOON AS THIS PROBLEM IS RESOLVED, GOVERNORS WILL PUSH FOR REMOVAL OF CENSORSHIP AND OTHER LESS IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENTS IN PRISON REGIME. SOVIET GOVERNOR BOBOVNIKOV
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CONTINUES TO BE VERY COOPERATIVE. HE HAS MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT NOT ALL HIS SUPERIORS WANT TO SEE ANYTHING DONE FOR HESS, AND HE HAS TO MOVE CAREFULLY.

5. HESS COMPLAINED ON AUGUST 11 AGAIN ABOUT HIS STOMACH CRAMPS BUT OTHERWISE SEEMED IN AS GOOD HEALTH AS CAN BE EXPECTED. THE US GOVERNOR INFORMS US THAT HE HAS BEEN A DIFFERENT MAN SINCE HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO WATCH TELEVISION. HE IS VERY CAREFUL ABOUT THE PROGRAMS HE PICKS AND CLEARLY ENJOYS SOCCER GAMES AND SCIENTIFIC SUBJECTS. TV HAS APPARENTLY ALREADY MADE A CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE TO HIS PRISON LIFE.

6. USCOB CONCURS. GEORBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TELEVISION BROADCASTING, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USBERL02116
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0438
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770865/aaaaccws.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: bf37f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1611349
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONDITIONS OF HESS' IMPRISONMENT SUMMARY: STORY ON HESS APPEARED IN AUGUST 11 STERN MAGAZINE WITH TELEPHOTO PICTURES OF HESS IN GARDEN
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB, (HESS, RUDOLPH)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf37f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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